



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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18 JULY 1966

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1. Vietnam

We have some further indications that Hanoi may in fact be gearing up to try the captured US airmen.

An East German attorney, with known access to high officials of the regime, has told the US mission in Berlin that some East German international law experts, at Vietnamese request, flew to Hanoi about the first of this month to transmit documentary materials on the Nuremberg war crimes trials. He said the selection of documents centers on the US role in the trials.

These documents are presumably available elsewhere in the Communist world. Bringing East Germany into the act may only be a way of furthering Hanoi's stated desire to obtain the widest possible international condemnation of the US.

2. North Vietnam

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3. Thailand

Thai insurgents are apparently receiving formal training in North Vietnam.

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4. Japan

Tokyo's decision to allow three North Korean technicians to enter Japan is threatening to worsen relations with South Korea. The permission is being granted to facilitate possible sale of a chemical plant to Pyongyang.

Seoul is resigned to some increase in Japanese trade with the North, but cannot appear to acquiesce for domestic political reasons. The foreign minister recently delivered a "strong warning" to the Japanese ambassador. Subsequently, the Korean ambassador in Tokyo was called home.

There have also been intimations that retaliatory measures may be taken against Japanese business in Korea. Public opinion may push Seoul into even stronger measures.

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5. Congo

Belgian-Congolese relations now seem to be moving toward a break--possibly later this summer. The Congo's continuing attacks on Belgian business interests are the main cause of this deterioration.

Mobutu's heavy taxation of Belgian and other oil companies may bring a test of strength this month. These concerns are now shutting off supplies of both ordinary and aviation gas, saying they cannot continue to operate at a loss.

Air service is also threatened by Mobutu's moves against Belgium's Sabena airline which supplies technical help to Air Congo for internal flights.

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6. Egypt

Cairo wants to trade 10,000 tons of rice from its fall harvest for Cuban sugar from the current crop. Egypt has bartered rice for Cuban sugar before. However, Egypt recently asked the US to postpone exercising its option under a PL-480 agreement to obtain some 50,000 tons of Egyptian rice, claiming that prior export commitments already exceeded present and future stocks.

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7. Cuba

Many Cuban officials are said to believe that Castro may have withdrawn from view during May and June to prepare for some major political event. Wide-spread speculation on the speech he will make at the national celebrations on 26 July includes such dramatic announcements as a decision to send "volunteers" to Vietnam or to break relations with Communist China.

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